

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL
1900
May 21, 1998

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

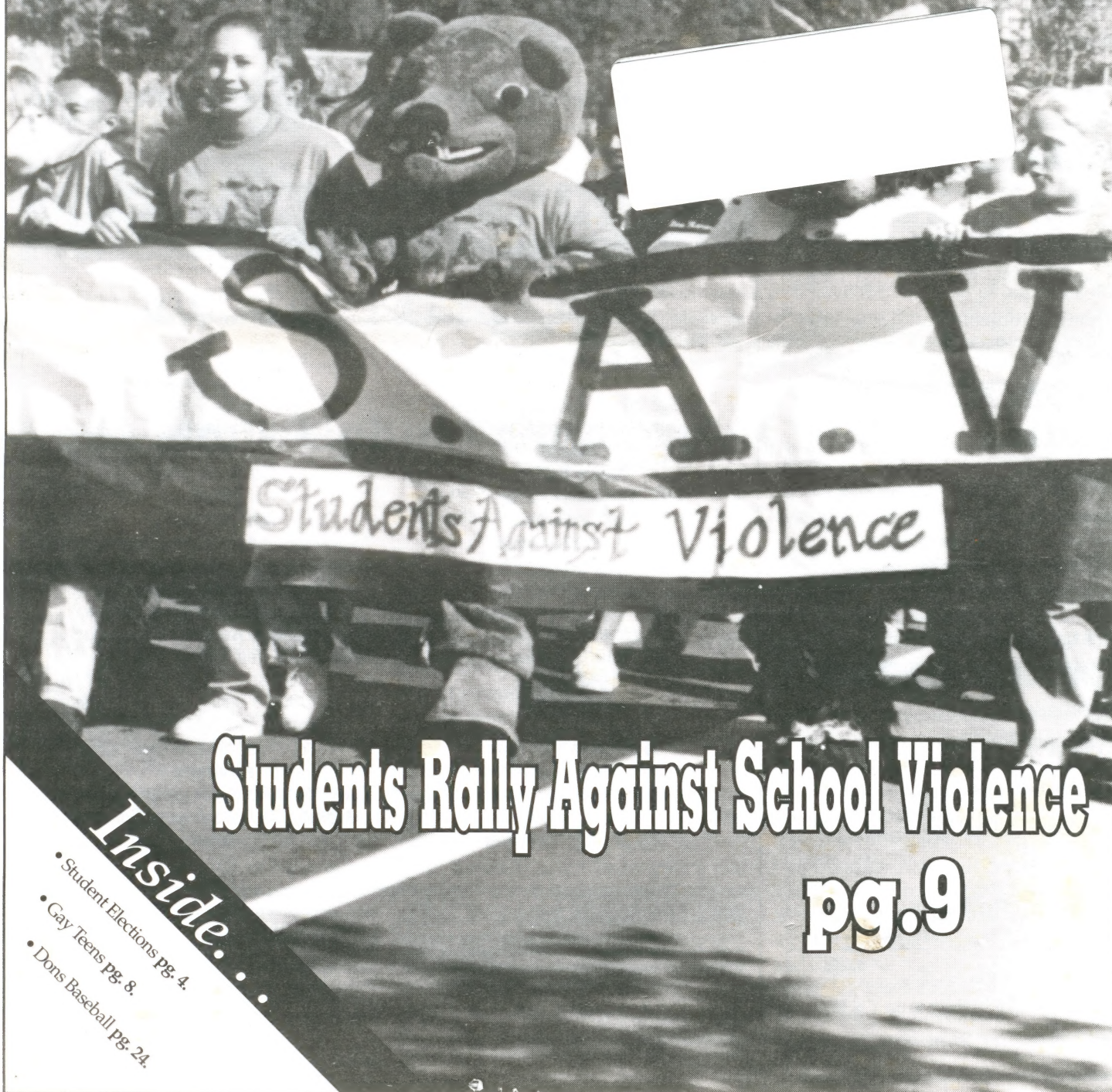
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Volume 59, Number 9

Alhambra, CA
Permit # 1041

BLUEPRINT

S.A.V.ing America's Schools



Students Rally Against School Violence

pg.9

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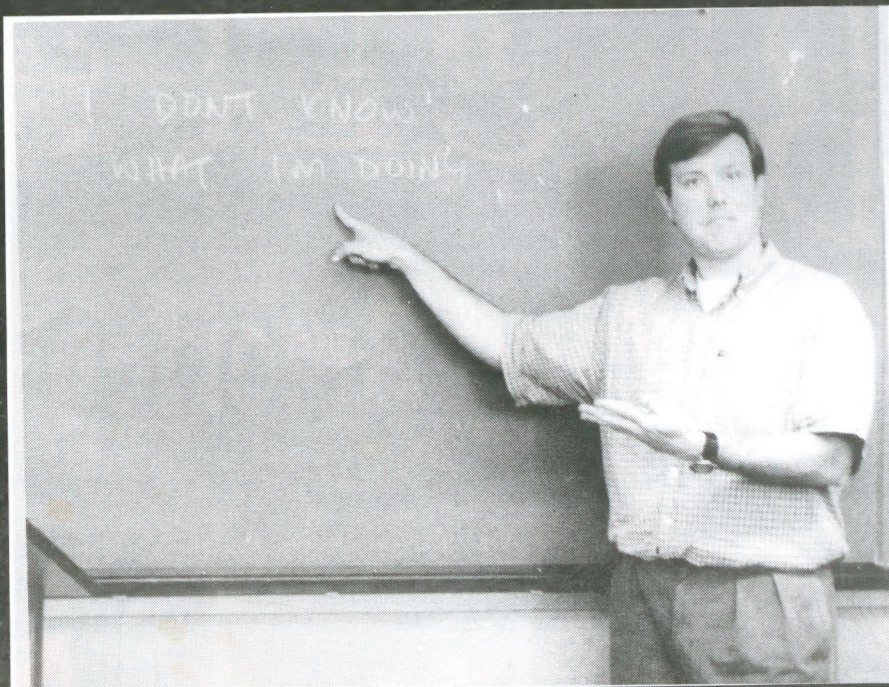
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ON THE COVER: Students march in protest of school violence in the Cal High Rally.

Photo of the Issue



Mr. Nolan, one of Acalanes' new teachers, displays his overwhelming knowledge to his newly enlightened students.

Blueprint '98-'99

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff. Blueprint is published approximately every three weeks during the

school year except for holidays and breaks by the Journalism class at Acalanes High School.
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A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



Student Rally
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AP TESTS

AP Tests Provide Agonizing Pressure

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again when everyone is stressed out and the end of school is just within reach.

"I am so ready for summer," said junior Kristen Kamrath. "But unfortunately, I still have AP Bio to prepare for."

For many, the last two weeks have been the final stretch-- the extra mile -- particularly for those with AP (Advanced Placement) tests. The AP students have literally been preparing all year for the three-hour tests they took these last two weeks.

"I haven't had eight hours of sleep in one night since October," said junior Vijay Sekhon who has been preparing for both the Calculus and Biology AP tests. "May 19, that's the day when I can start relaxing."

Since taking AP courses is encouraged by colleges, many Acalanes students are doing so. AP classes are considered college cours-

es and, depending on the school, anyone who receives a three or higher on the AP test (on a scale of 1-5) is considered eligible for college credit in that course. In addition,

five on the AP US History test," said junior Nate Lam. "If I can pull a five I'll get an 'A' in US History for the year."

As any AP student or teacher knows, taking an AP course is no easy task.

AP Biology teacher Rosemarie Bauer said, "The stress of having to test at the college level is very emotionally draining, physically draining, and I feel that people really should evaluate if they are taking more than two AP's."

Teaching AP is not an easy task either. Arnie Hoffman said that his first year teaching AP Calculus has been a very enjoyable experience but he is not sorry that it is over.

"It is a lot of work on the teacher's part," said Hoffman, "but I enjoy the honor and the challenge of teaching higher level material to the most motivated students at Acalanes."

Despite the workload, the general consensus on taking AP courses is that it is

worth the extra work. Junior Charlie Massie said, "It is a lot of work, but when it is all said and done, I feel a sense of relief and accomplishment."

"62 HOURS, 43 MINUTES AND 16 SECONDS
UNTIL THE TEST... OH MY GOD, I JUST WASTED
15 SECONDS CALCULATING THAT... I'VE
REACHED MY MENTAL CAPACITY AND I
STILL HAVE 11 CHAPTERS LEFT....."



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

teachers often promise an "A" in the course for a four or a five as an added incentive.

"I really need to get a four or a

STUDENT ELECTIONS

ASB Elections Get Low Voter Turnout

By Lexi Matsui
Staff Writer

Although few Acalanes students voted in the quad on Thursday, April 29, the new ASB crew has an optimistic outlook on next year.

Of the three classes that voted, only 57% of the juniors voted for their classmates, 36% of sophomores, and a mere 33% of freshmen, totaling to a low 424 votes out of 1008 students for the primary elections, and an even lower 318 votes out of 1008 students for the run-off elections.

New ASB Treasurer Matt Stevens thinks that voting should be done in the classrooms to get more participation.

ASB advisor Rod Keillor said that classroom voting wasn't possible this year due to timing difficulties.

"We had already used up our communication time during the classes, so there was no time to have classroom voting this year," said Keillor.

He also feels that voting in classrooms would not accurately reflect the actual election process.

"In real-life situations, they don't do that. It's voluntary. Those that care about who they want to vote for will go out and vote," said Keillor.

Despite the low voter turnout, the elected five are excited and optimistic about the job.

"The five officers make up a very diverse group, so I'm hoping that it will mean more input from the majority of the school," said Stevens.

ASB Secretary Teresa Wickham is also excited about next year, and hopes to make it the best ever.

Next year's ASB President James Applebury wants the student body to be more involved in leadership.

"I plan to have a good year next year and I want people to know that I'm always open to suggestions and compromises," said Applebury.



Overcome with emotions, juniors Damon Peters and Brian Connolly partake in a warm embrace after winning senior class officer positions, president and vice president.

ASB Vice President Grace Woods plans on concentrating on "little things that are achievable," including music during passing periods, bringing back the radio station, student involvement, and more bands in the quad on Fridays.

ASB Social Secretary Tess Leathers is also this year's junior class secretary. She already has plans for next year.

"I want to do a lot of the same events, such as casino night, senior fashion show, and the talent show," said Leathers.

Leathers thinks that we can increase voter turnout by going back to classroom voting. Overall, students seemed to vote if it was convenient for them. Those students who usually eat lunch in the quad found it easy to vote. Those who eat lunch farther away from the quad didn't seem to vote.

Sophomore Elham Amiri said that she didn't vote because she "didn't think that my one vote would make much of a difference," she said.

However, she feels that she probably would have voted if the election booths were closer to where she spends her lunchtime.

CLASS OFFICERS

Class of 2000:

President: Damon Peters
Vice President: Brian Connolly
Secretary: Cicely Andree
Social Secretary: Vicki Traverso
Class Council: Jessica Reid & Nick Gomes

Class of 2001:

President: Carlo Milani
Vice President: Ryan Hafey
Secretary: April Ho
Social Secretary: Alexis Klein
Class Council: Kristina Owyong

Class of 2002:

President: Matt Eaton
Vice President: Carrie Wood
Secretary: John Fossum
Social Secretary: Bas Howard
Class Council: Mark Miles

MOCK TRIAL

Two Gavels Up for Mock Trial

**By Ann Bordetsky, Mark Philpot
and Mike Pinkel**

Staff Writers

Getting too much sleep? Life too stress-free? Not enough arguments in your life? Can you get through your day without downing Pepto-Bismol? Mock Trial can fix that!

A team that emassed the county and state championships and received sevenths in the nation did not do so without its share of trials both inside and outside of court.

Every year Mock Trial started out with the tension of try-outs. After the team was picked, it was time to really bear down and spend four days a week grappling with legal concepts and working to put together a persuasive case. Luckily, this year's case kept things interesting. Following on the heels of recent school shootings, *People vs. Brunetti* involved an alleged conspiracy between two students to kill another. In the fictional case, Nicky Blanc shot Jackie Potomsky. Blanc was then shot by the police. The defendant, Shawn Brunetti, was charged with conspiring with Blanc to commit the killing.

After winning the county championship, the team launched into frenzied preparations to climb the ivory tower of competition again.

The team intensified its already grueling practice schedule. Three days a week, students drove to the Martinez courthouse for practices that often went as late as 9:00 pm. During practice, the students sat in a stuffy courtroom looking pale and washed-out under the harsh fluorescent lights. They formulated strategies with attorney coach, Brian Welch, meticulously analyzed each witness statement and rewrote direct and cross-examinations, while perfecting opening and closing arguments.

Before they could even catch their breath, the team had rolled over three opponents and found itself in the fourth round of the state tournament. With a win, they had a chance to compete for the state title the next day. They were up against Marin, the same team

that dealt the students a heartbreaking loss in the fourth round the previous year. This year the team was not willing to settle for anything less than complete victory. "Last year we felt like Marin beat us unfairly. This was our chance to get even," said Pinkel.

They got even. The team not only beat Marin but went on to beat Sacramento in the State Championship Finals.

"I felt very vindicated," said junior attorney Sumi Kim. "I wasn't too surprised [at the victory] because I knew we were good enough."

After State, the team had a nice, long, two-day pause to revel in their victory before going to work on an entirely new and much more lengthy case. According to Pinkel, "the case for Nationals was three times as long, twice as complicated, and we had a fifth as much time to get ready."

By contrast to the team's state case, the national case of *Flood vs. Kuhn* was a federal anti-trust case. It mirrored Curt Flood's 1970 challenge to Major League Baseball regarding whether it had the right to swap players between teams like trading cards. The attorneys for Nationals were Sarah Grenfell, Kim, Ann Bordetsky, and Pinkel. Darryl Wong, Jason Leith, Philpot, and Grenfell played Curt Flood, an Harvard economist and a wealthy team owner, the Commissioner of Baseball and a union leader, and the president of Baseball respectively.

The seven team members who went to Nationals drilled every day and night for a month. "I was overwhelmed. I had AP's coming up, and I had volleyball. I had to try to balance my time, and I had to cut some things short," said Wong, who was named Best Witness in Contra Costa County along with teammate Jessica Drevno.

During the first weeks of practice, the team researched anti-trust law. Welch and teacher coach Carla Garrett spent long hours flipping through law books and copying hundreds of pages of legal materials. "The quality of their coaching was excellent. They prepared us very well for competition," said Grenfell.

From there, the students wrote opening and closing statements for both the defense

and the plaintiff. "Writing the statements early helped us map out where we wanted to go with the case. Once we knew that, it was easier to structure our examinations," said Pinkel.

Under the hectic schedule, the team had a hard time getting their material finalized. "Our first practice trial was a lot of improvisation," said Philpot. In fact, some of the examinations still weren't finished when the team took off for St. Louis on May 6th.

Luckily, the team arrived in St. Louis with one day to go before their first competition, but it was not spent recuperating from the long plane ride. "We basically spent that day in [Welch's] room working on the case," said Kim.

In the first round of competition, the team was quickly reminded of the feel of a hot, stuffy, cramped courtroom and the intense pressure of competition. As the trial got under way, Pinkel and Leith downed their third dose of Pepto.

During the trial, attorneys paid careful attention to the progress of the trial in order to adapt their examinations to the case the opposing team presented. Often opposing witnesses would give unexpected answers, forcing attorneys to think on their feet. Objections were also a challenge to the attorneys, but, according to Pinkel, the attorneys were all very experienced, and did a good job of dealing with the objections as they came up.

Acalanes took the first round as well as the next two, but the fourth round ended in an extremely narrow defeat against the state of Wisconsin. With a three-in-one record against a draw of tough teams, the team placed seventh in the nation.

In spite of the loss, the team is proud of its accomplishments. "We faced three truly excellent teams, two of which ended up among the top ten teams in the nation," said Pinkel.

Now there is an odd calm. A glorious season of Mock Trial is over but so is the entire program at Acalanes. After six years of coaching the team, Garrett and Welch are retiring. What was only mock court to some was three years of very real work and sweat for the now legendary team at Acalanes.

SHOOTING RUMORS

Shooting Rumors Trigger Student Fear

By Nathalie de Leon, Damon Diederich and Brianne Kennedy
News Editor and Staff Writers

Choosing not to verbally address a high level of anxiety in the student body, the administration carefully handled shooting threats on Friday, April 31 by carrying out an in-depth investigation.

A parent called with concerns about a rumor she had heard that a student was going to bring a gun to school and shoot students, according to Principal Keith Schmidt.

The administration determined that the rumors were false after extensive investigation. A number of faculty sources indicated that the suspect was called into the office and interrogated. As he was in the office, another student called pretending to be the "shooter," and the rumor was determined false. However, student fears still ran strong while no official announcement was made.

"At lunch everyone was really scared.... We were very worried, and we didn't know what to think," said junior Katrina Vegvary. "We thought the administration should do a little more than just keep it quiet."

Teacher Wendy Dunstan felt that "what made (the students) most anxious was listening to a lot of rumors and not having any definite or reliable information."

Vice Principal Jerry Bucci, the top administrator on campus that day, declined to comment on the decision to not address the school, saying that in every case of threat, they "are constantly weighing the value of information."

Schmidt said that announcements are made only when necessary, depending on

the situation.

Parents expressed concern over the administration's decision not to inform students that the rumors were false.

"I think given the climate of concern that we all share, good open communication is extremely important," said parent Karla Massie. "Yes, they should have

things," said Diehl. "One... the rumor... and at the same time, the object of the rumors needed to be dealt with so people's rights were protected."

Diehl said, however, that the administration should have made an announcement.

"Probably, in hindsight, it would have

been nice at some point... to get on the phone and say, 'There are a lot of rumors; things are being dealt with; there's nothing happening right now. You don't need to leave'," said Diehl.

Diehl made an announcement to the faculty at lunch on the status of the investigation.

Teacher Mike McAlister said that they were given no official announcement, but he told his students "that the most important thing we can do is not let rumors run rampant."

Bucci and Schmidt said that there is no exact plan for threat situations; their actions depend on the circumstances of each threat, and they fully assess the situation before making decisions.

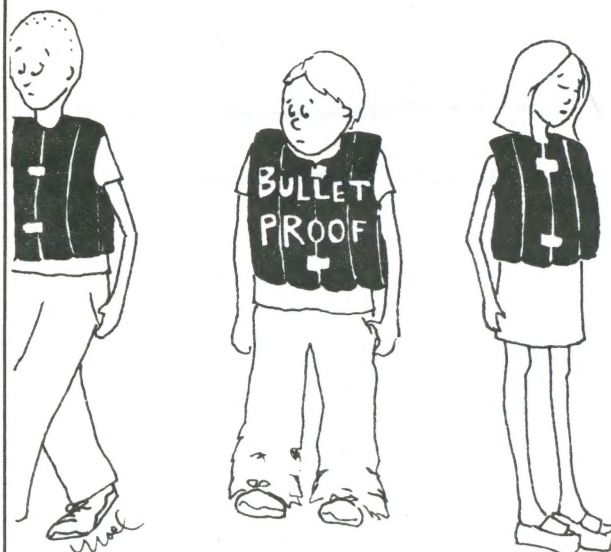
"First, you need to establish a safe situation," said Schmidt. "It comes down to judgments. The key thing is... to have people look in on facts."

A series of coincidences exacerbated the tension, including a power outage in some classrooms and "gun shots" from the starting gun at the track meet.

"I cut PE because when I was in the locker room, the power went off and I was really scared. I thought someone had cut off the electricity," said sophomore Melaine Lopez.

The electricity, according to Schmidt, was off because of a school power outage; no one intentionally turned it off.

ACALANES' REVISED DRESS CODE



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

made an announcement."

However, another parent, Karen Van Galder felt that the administration was correct in its reasoning.

"The administration shouldn't make an announcement when the situation has been dealt with," said Van Galder, "but an announcement should be made if the threat is real."

Fred Diehl, the school psychologist, said that there was no overt decision to keep quiet; the whole staff was too busy investigating to think of one.

"Things were moving rather rapidly and we were dealing with a couple of

NUGGETS

Youth Against Violence Committee

Attention all students:

In the wake of the fears associated with any form of violence and in the midst of a world that has little tolerance, there needs to be a change. We all have a choice to be nice to each other and support one another. Have tolerance and acceptance toward one another. Seldom do we embrace what we don't understand, but now is the time to change that. A new club is forming at Acalanes that invites all students to take a stand against violence in the schools and to help promote tolerance and acceptance. For more info, contact Amy Luke or watch for flyers.

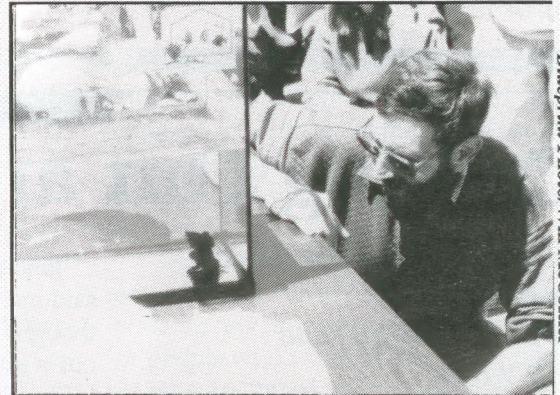
GAS BOYCOTT



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

A gas station sits empty on April 30, when many California residents participated in a statewide gas boycott in protest of the increasing gas prices. The boycott was publicized over the internet; its outcome exceeded the creator's hopes.

GO FISH



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Math teacher Arnie Hoffman stares into the fish tank of the fish he is about to kiss in the quad. He received the most money in his "Kiss a Fish" jar.

Student Award Winners

By James Sherwood

Feature Editor

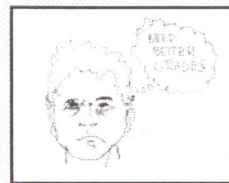
Senior Cathy McPhee and junior Sumi Kim were both the recipients of very prestigious awards given out this year for photography and mock trial achievements.

McPhee was the winner of two Quill and Scroll awards for journalism photography. Out of 161 applicants, only nine awards were given out. McPhee received two of these nine awards, one winning first place in the United States for sports photography.

Kim was given an Outstanding Attorney award for her work in the National Mock Trial Tournament. She received one of only 15 awards given out nationally. The Acalanes mock trial team went on to win the state title and seventh place nationally.

"It was a great honor, and it gave the year a sense of closure," said Kim. "It was a perfect way to end it."

A CALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE



Getting Into
College
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GAY TEENS

Coming Out and Coming to Terms

By Hannah Hens-Piazza and
Lexi Matsui

*Co-Editor-in-Chief and
Staff Writer*

Continued From Last Issue

"I can tell you right now that if I wasn't a queer, I wouldn't have somebody muttering 'dyke' at me under their breath in the halls," said Martha (name has been changed), an Acalanes student who has faced personal and external struggles in her coming out as a homosexual teenager.

Martha had a different experience than the previously interviewed Joe DeCosta and Josh Deitch because she received less harassment from her peers but had a harder time telling her parents.

"I don't think I get (harassed) as much, because I am a female, and being a lesbian or bisexual female is far more accepted in today's society than being a gay male," she said. Martha, herself a lesbian/bisexual, said she finds that being a bisexual is becoming "trendy" in today's society.

She, like DeCosta, knew she was not heterosexual from a young age. "For a while, I identified myself as straight simply because it was easier. In elementary school, I did not really identify as straight though, but that doesn't work in elementary school, so I pretty much ran away from it. It was a secret...a big secret...Then just a couple of years ago I started to think well, maybe there are other options, and it turned out I was right and I was shocked and amazed and very happy about it."

Julie Lienert of the Safe Schools Project said many people identify at an early age, though few address the feelings. "Coming out is usually a process," she said, because young children are usually expected to be straight.

Martha came out to her friends before her parents, as do many teens when realizing their sexuality. She tried at first to drop

all quite comfortable with it. Sometimes there are little things, like one girl had to be reassured that she wasn't my type." It wasn't always easy, though. When Martha first came out, she said, "Every time anyone said anything other than, 'I support you, I just felt smaller and smaller.'"

Lienert said youth should work to create spaces for people to talk about any discomfort they might have about homosexuality. Talking and addressing any fear there might be are some main steps that can be taken in preventing homophobia, she said.

At Acalanes, Martha said there are different climates in different areas of the school. "There are hallways where you will be accepted no matter who you are. There are also hallways I choose not to walk down," she said.

Recently, English teacher Erik Seebass's classroom window was sprayed with "STR-8." Seebass said, "It's a bunch of idiots being a bunch of idiots....It's really

stupid, but it's also very serious." Seebass is frustrated by the lack of respect for the Gay-Straight Alliance, but he said he tries not to make too big of a deal over the vandalism.

Martha, despite any obstacles she has had to overcome, remains very optimistic. In talking about her father's reaction, Martha said, "We've had the discussion where he says, 'You know this is going to make your life very difficult.' What can you do? If you're born with a physical handicap, that makes your life difficult too."



Vandals defaced the windows of Erik Seebass's classroom with "straight pride" graffiti. This and other pranks undermine the school's objective to promote tolerance between students.

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

subtle hints to them, such as putting gay rights stickers on her car. "One night I was having a screaming argument with my parents. They were asking me, 'What's wrong? What's wrong?' It was a very bad point in my life, and they just kept yelling at me and asking me what was wrong. Finally I yelled out, 'You wanna know what's wrong? I'm gay!' And that sort of took them aback. That wasn't how I'd planned it at all," she said.

Martha had a less dramatic experience in coming out to her friends. "My close friends who aren't gay or lesbian—they're

STUDENT RALLY

Students March Against School Violence

By **Brianne Kennedy**
Staff Writer

In an effort to save their own communities from the pain and loss caused by violence on school campuses, nearly one thousand students, teachers, parents, politicians, and community members marched and rallied against such violence on Friday, May 7 at California High School in San Ramon.

Also in attendance were three students from Columbine High School of Littleton, CO, where two students recently murdered fourteen others--along with a popular teacher-- and then shot themselves.

The event's participants wore matching "Students Against Violence" t-shirts in blue and gray, the colors of Columbine High School, and formed a crowd a quarter of a mile long. They represented over 15 Bay Area High Schools, and gave a standing ovation in response to the

touching sentiments shared by the visiting Columbine students: Kim and Kelli Turner, and Jenny Klermund.

"I can't help but wonder how others or myself could have prevented this tragedy," said Klermund. "I believe that we will someday accept that what happened happened."

The three freshmen girls all wore shirts that read, "We are COLUMBINE." The girls were in science classes at the time the shooting started. When the school's fire alarm went off, their classes began to evacuate but were stopped by a teacher who had witnessed shooting further down the hallway. That teacher had saved their lives.

"All around us we heard screaming and shooting," said Katie Turner, whose class watched their school on the news while they waited four hours to be rescued by the SWAT team.

Kelli Turner recalled that, at a school assembly just one week before the shooting, their principal closed by saying, "Imagine if the person next to you were gone."

"Thank you so much for the love and support that you've given us," she said. "You don't know how much it means."

Other speakers at the rally, which was organized entirely by students in just over one week, included State Senator Richard Rainey, Assemblywoman Lynne Leach, Assemblyman Tom Torlikson, Contra Cos-



Bay Area students and community members joined with three Columbine students in a march against violence. The march was intended to unite students against future acts of violence.

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones



Acalanes students posted ribbons on campus in memory of the student deaths at Columbine High.

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

ta County

Supervisor Donna Gerber, and California Teacher of the Year, Bill Pence of California High School.

"In my entire teaching career, I've never seen students come together like this," said Pence, who feels that the only way that school violence can be curbed is with further parent involvement and improved communication. "We are one community. We are one student body."

"[School violence] could happen anywhere," said California High School Principal Mark Corti, who noticed a definite change in climate at his school after the shooting.

Even so, it can now be said that nearly one thousand Bay Area students, teachers, parents, politicians, and community members believe, as California High School junior Gina Merola put it, "Violence isn't going to solve problems. If we come together we can make the future better."

GUN SURVEY

AHS Students Aim For Gun Control

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of the April 20 shooting at Columbine High School, a recent *Blueprint* survey shows that Acalanes students feel a need for stricter gun control laws.

Of those students surveyed, 76 percent agreed that there should be more restrictions on those who can purchase a gun. Only 20 percent felt that the present restrictions were sufficient.

One of the 76 percent who agreed that there needed to be more restriction, sophomore Alex Gallo points out that theoretically, minors can get guns through adults.

"If there are more restrictions on what adults can buy guns, then it is going to be harder for minors to get a hold of them," said Gallo.

Among the students surveyed, 68 percent felt that adults should not be permitted to own semi-automatic weapons. Only 21 percent agreed that adults should have the right to own a semi-automatic.

"The only thing semi-autos are really good for are hunting and shooting other people," said junior Steve Cherezian. "If semi-autos should be allowed, they should be restricted to only those who need them for hunting."

According to the survey, these feelings on gun control laws are not new. Only 24 percent of the students surveyed said that the April 20 massacre has changed their views on gun control laws while 65 percent

felt that it hadn't.

The Columbine incident hasn't changed anything," said junior John Shen. "It has only reinforced my feeling that people shouldn't have guns."

who was one of the students who marked "no."

However, junior Zack Burnside disagrees. He feels that the parents are responsible for their children's actions.

"If the parents of one of the Columbine gunners had paid closer attention to their child's state of mind, I doubt that he would have gone on a killing spree," said Burnside.

With the Columbine incident in mind, *Blueprint's* last question asked if students felt that administrators and teachers should be trained and licensed to carry a gun on campus. Not surprisingly, only 7 percent of the students surveyed felt that teachers and administrators should carry guns, while most of the others put "hell" in front of "no" and circled "hell no."

"If my teachers had weapons, I'd leave the country," said junior Shereef Sabra. "The school is not a battle ground— it's a place of education!"

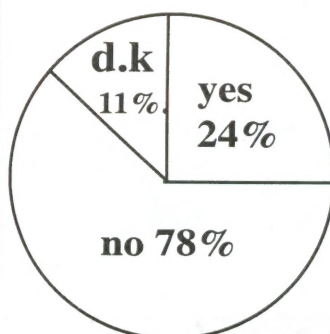
Needless to say, the majority of the students at Acalanes (86 percent) were against giving administrators and teachers the right to carry guns on campus. Several students wrote in response to this question, that carrying a gun on school only increases the number of guns available to unstable students on campus. Others also pointed out that allow-

ing teachers and administrators to carry guns doesn't send a message of peace, trust, and education.

Senior Navdeep Sekhon is one of these students who feels that giving teachers and administrators the right to carry guns on campus is not the right answer. As he said in response to this question, "You don't teach by setting a bad example. You don't teach nonviolence by carrying a gun."

Student Survey Results

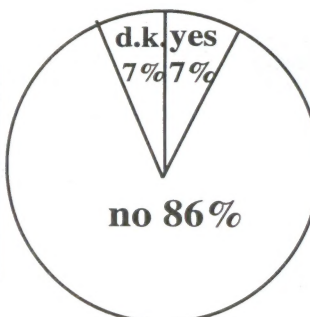
Has the Columbine incident changed your views on gun control?



Yes	29
No	78
Don't Know	13

In light of Columbine incident, do you feel that teachers and administrators should be trained and licensed to carry weapons on campus to deter and prevent student violence?

Yes	7
No	86
Don't Know	7



Among the questions in the survey, *Blueprint* asked whether or not parents of minors who use guns to commit crimes should be punished by law. Of the students who marked either "yes" or "no," 56 percent disagreed that parents of juveniles should not be punished and 44 percent agreed that they should.

"I feel that people should be held accountable for their own actions not their parents'," said sophomore Olivia Johnson,

CONSTRUCTION

The Drama Of School Construction

By Nathalie de Leon and Peter Deng

News Editor and Copy Editor

The new Acalanes construction plan is not accomodating to the drama program, according to Tom Eggertsen, drama instructor.

The new plan would entail the building of one theater specialized for the music program. Eggertsen feels that they will not be able to do the same types of performances that they have done this year if the new plan goes into action.

"We've done theater in the round where the audience comes in and sits around a platform in the middle of the floor. We can do dinner show theaters. Our dinner shows have raised...a couple thousands of dollars," said Eggertsen. "We will never be able to do a dinner

show again if we're in a tier-seated theater like they want to do for music."

He also feels that the new plan is not cost efficient. It will cost \$5.5 million, according to an administrative report on the project. "The plan makes no fiscal sense to me," said Eggertsen.

Chris Learned, facilities coordinator of the new theater, said that the current plan is the most cost efficient one they have come up with. It would involve tearing down the current drama building and replacing it with a large performance arts theater.

Eggertsen suggested that the school use the previous plan of building two separate theaters for music and drama, leaving the current drama building in place. "Why should we get rid of the (drama) room? I would like to see that space used," said Eggertsen. Learned

said that the two-theater plan costs one and a half million dollars more than the one-theater plan.

"At this point, the two-theater plan is not an option. It's too expensive," said Learned. Eggertsen also said that the contractors will encounter asbestos when they tear down the drama building, and that it will cost half a million dollars to clear it.

Learned, however, got an estimate on clearing the asbestos for 32 thousand dollars. Even so, "Any cost of demolition of a building that's still useful, to me, is a waste," said Eggertsen.

Superintendent Dr. James Perino and Principal Keith Schmidt were not available for questioning. Eggertsen, Learned, Perino, Schmidt, and other district members are scheduled to discuss the issue at the end of the week.

CHANGARIS

Changaris Coaches Thousandth Win

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

Coach Jim Changaris just attained his thousandth victory in over 20 years of coaching basketball, volleyball, wrestling and softball.

In this past year, his coaching abilities have been questioned by both players and parents, eventually leaving the spot for coaching girls volleyball open for next year. But he has stayed strong under this scrutiny and led the boys volleyball team to an outstanding 28-17 record for the season.

His thousandth win occurred when the boys volleyball team beat Dublin at a home game. His other volleyball wins have been put under his belt over a period of 25 years in which he has coached junior varsity, varsity, girls and boys sports. Since 1974, when he started coaching girls volleyball, he has had only one losing

season, which was in 1993. During that time, he helped the team win 10 division titles, an INCS championship title in 1990 and Acalanes' best season at 32 wins and 10 losses recently in 98. He has been coaching boys volleyball for six years, and during that time received 2 division titles, one league title, and in 1998 set the Acalanes most wins record at 34-9. He has also set up volleyball camps for grades 6-12 and has had over 750 students attend during this time. He also ran the club volleyball summer league for five years and employed former students as referees.

Changaris also coached girls basketball for 20 years, with five of those at Acalanes before being replaced by Casey Rush. In those 20 years of coaching, he acquired only six losing seasons, and in 1994 and 1995 led the Lady Dons to qualify for the NCS. During the 20 years, he started

girls frosh basketball programs as a club sport, but they were later upgraded to certified teams by the district.

He also coached girls softball and co-ed wrestling for a total of 11 years. He has been coaching softball for seven years, and during that time only had one losing season in 1994. His most impressive season was in 1998 with a record of 34-9. He coached wrestling for four years with two wining and two losing seasons.

In regards to his coaching at Acalanes, Changaris said, "I enjoy coaching at Acalanes. Most of the kids remember me from Stanley, and I enjoy the students at Acalanes and the athletes that I have coached. I also enjoy working with Dave Girsch and Keith Schmidt, but it seems my greatest problem is satisfying the parents, but I still would definitely love to continue at Acalanes."

COLLEGE

Applicant Increase Hinders Acceptance

By Tim Shieh
Staff Writer

Acalanes seniors have discovered that admission into college has gotten more difficult this year, with more and more complications.

"It is harder to guess where someone will be admitted," said Acalanes counselor Pat Johnson. "At (UC) Berkeley from 1994 to 1999, the application rate went up 50%. Of Berkeley's applicants for fall of '99, 27% were admitted. UCLA's was between 28% and 29%."

Johnson said, however, that admission standards "are the same in terms of being eligible for the system. You're still guaranteed a space in the system if you're eligible. But at this point, the campuses are almost all becoming very selective, and probably Santa Cruz and Riverside are the only two campuses that are less selective."

She did not know about private school admissions, but suspected they were more competitive this year.

Graduating senior Mike Pinkel has other ideas. "It isn't that there are more talented people, it's that it's harder to pick them. As a result of people taking SAT-prep classes, their SAT scores are artificially inflated. There are more and more AP classes, but there are not more and more talented people to be in them. The worth of taking an AP class goes down," said Pinkel.

Pinkel believes that there are an increasing number of students applying to Ivy League schools because "people see...(that) they have to apply to every hot school. That, in turn, pushes the number of acceptances down. It's not that they're more qualified people. It's that people in that (applicant) pool know their chances are slim, so they apply everywhere, which makes everyone's chances even slimmer. (With all the AP classes and SAT-prep courses), nobody has got to be a

better student. You just have to jump through another hoop to stay competitive. Thus, admissions officers don't get good data (on students)."

Senior Christine Han feels the same way. "I didn't think (Columbia) would be that hard to get into. But (Columbia) said this year was their record high. Last year, almost no one (from Acalanes) applied to Columbia, but this year, three people applied there," said Han.

Senior Ying-Ying Chi said, "Admissions is like a business. Colleges want to look good, and an indicator of that is a highly selective rating. The way they do this is to recruit heavily and then cut a lot of people that they know won't get in. It's pretty cruel."

Music majors, however, have a fairer time in the application process. Senior Aaron Grafton said, "At music schools, you meet the one person (the music instructor) face to face that makes the decision. Applying to music schools is definitely much more personal."

The UC Pathways, California Notes

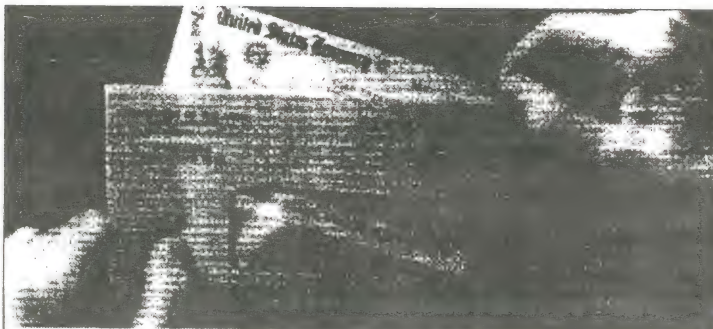
Newsletter said that at every UC, the number of undergraduate applications increased. University of California San Diego's number of applications increased 16.4 % from last year, the largest change in application in the UC system.

The UC system changed some parts of its admissions policy this year. "More of the (UC) schools are going to a more comprehensive review of the applications," said Johnson. For example, "Berkeley read every (application) essay this year. One of the hard parts (of applying to the UC's) is that (the admissions officers) are looking at the applications more holistically...it is harder to guess where someone will be admitted. (Admission results don't) seem as consistent, so forecasting (results) is harder."

"In the end," said Pinkel, "your ability to get good grades in school and your ability to make things happen in the world are two different things. They may be related, but they are not identical."



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden



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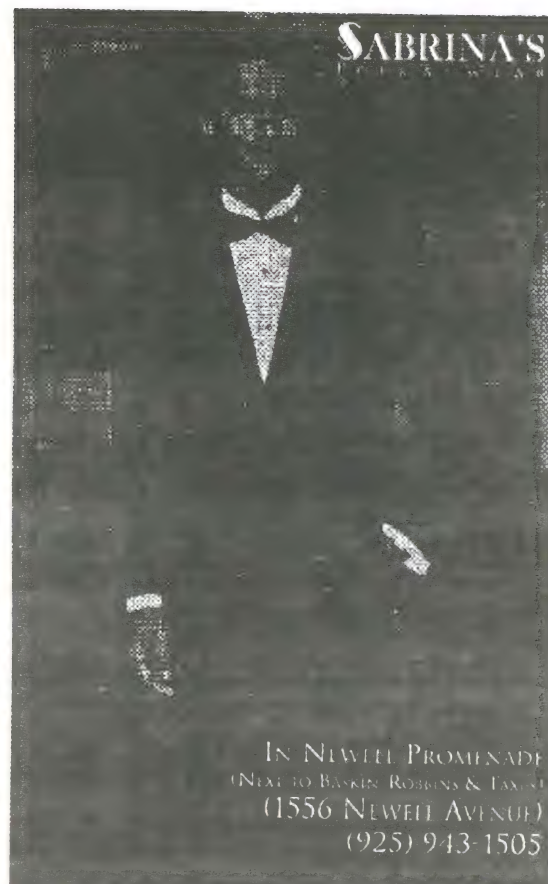
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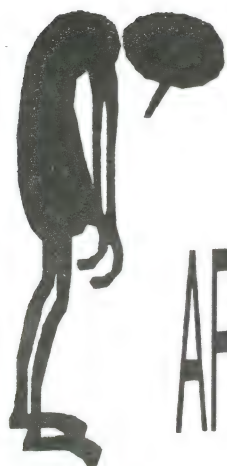
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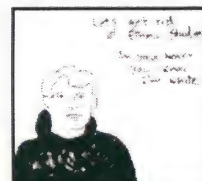
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ACALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

INSIDE



Ethnic Abolition
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FLAKKY GETS FUNKY

Thanksgiving Break Takes a Vacation

By Andria Flakoll
Co-Editor-In-Chief

A new year of high school begins filled with a new batch of teachers and the usual barrage of assignments. Three months into this arduous pattern and students are crying out for a break. Finally their prayers are answered; a week long Thanksgiving vacation is here and long-overdue. There is, however, one catch. The only way to keep this break in the future, is to vacation productively in the present, and don't all smart, college-bound youngsters know that's by visiting colleges?

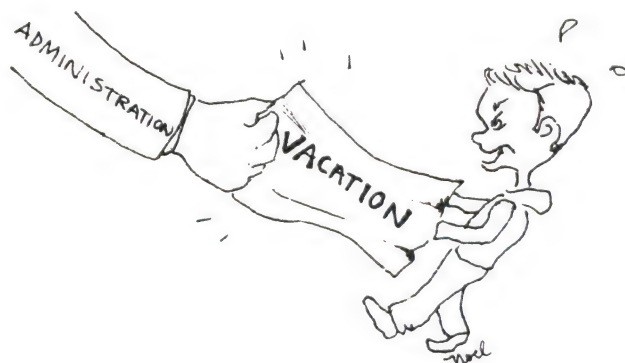
Actually that's a big whopping "NO!" Because not enough juniors visited colleges this year, juniors next year won't even have the option. Published in the recent *Insights* was a notice from the AUHSD Governing Board that the Acalanes student body will not have a full week off for the '99-'00 Thanksgiving holiday.

It said that the board "had hoped that students might visit colleges." However, I'm curious as to why their hopes weren't shared. Parents should have been informed that the week long break was intended to give students a chance to see colleges. I mean really people; your hopes can be our hopes too.

The notice went on to say that "it appears that not many students were able to make such provisions." Well,

surprising as it might be, provisions would have been made if a little friendly encouragement had been given. Students were never informed that the future of this break rest upon the turnout of students visiting colleges this year.

There should have been some type of message encouraging parents to go on a family trip. Thanksgiving is, of course, one of the most family oriented holidays of the year. But on that



trip stop to see colleges; everyone has a cousin Bob, no matter how disliked, who goes to college. So stop by the college and get ol' Bobby to give a tour.

None of this helpful advice, as simple as it might be, was shared with parents. If it was, the Thanksgiving Break would still be an option for next year. It seems that it was less the student's fault for not visiting colleges, and more the board's fault for not publicizing the opportunity to visit colleges.

There was a survey passed out in

English classes shortly after the break, asking if the student had visited colleges and if so which ones. Many people had no idea what the survey was for. "Colleges? When was there ever a mention to visit colleges?" asked all the utterly confused students.

The board also encouraged parents not to take their child out of school since the vacation is no longer in place. For every un-excused absence, the school loses money. Well, the fact of the matter

is people will still vacation, and some of these vacations will be for pure pleasure and others to visit colleges.

If students have three of the five-day work week off, why not take off the other two? That's three fewer days missed if families chose to vacation any other week, and it's also a great chance to visit colleges since the colleges are still in school the days before

Thanksgiving. And don't forget those are the majority of the days not included in the vacation.

So not only have future classes lost the opportunity to visit colleges, but the district will lose gobs of money because students will miss this week, vacation or not. The district would save money overall if this break was kept.

The ironic twist of this whole turn of events: the AUHSD Governing Board took the time to tell parents that the break was off, but never took the time to publicize what the break was intended for in the first place. It's just too bad.

Blueprint Illustration: Noel Fadden

HACKIN' WITH HANNAH

Viewers and Media Showing Prejudice

By Hannah Hens-Piazza

Co-Editor-in-Chief

In a society where people are dying every moment, people have developed varied responses to different kinds of deaths and even varied responses to different kinds of victims.

The recent tragic deaths of 15 high school students and one teacher at Columbine High School has attracted much media attention and viewer attention as well. Many friends told me they found it hard to keep from crying as they saw the terrified looks on the escaped students' faces and heard their horrific accounts of being in the midst of the gunfire. None of these friends were personally acquainted with any of the victims though.

At the same time, NATO was bombing areas in Kosovo, and civilians were being killed every day. This story was on the news just as much, but I found that barely anyone shed a tear at this equally tragic news. Only those who had family or friends in Kosovo were truly concerned about the situation as they saw cities in flames on TV. Why?

Our society is finally, after years of struggle by minority groups, moving in the direction of tolerance. We can now be comfortable being friends with just about anyone, and we try to never make racially offensive comments. But does that make us entirely prejudice-free?

As we watch the news, we become emotionally involved in the tragedy where American high school students lose their lives in a nightmarish incident. Yet we seem to try and keep emotionally distanced from the civilians who lost their lives in a war they may not even support.

Why should one of these terrible incidents be labeled more important than another? Perhaps because we are still a nation afraid to become emotionally involved in other cultures.

I suggest that as a society we should overcome the barriers that prevent us from caring about people of another

culture or another country. There is a kind of fear in becoming involved in situations that we can't control and this prevents us from relating to the victims. Though most Americans did not have family or friends in the Columbine shootings, the whole country was extremely affected by the incident. The very notion of young lives being taken in such a manner was sickening and very sad.

But there was nothing to relate to for the Americans without connections to Kosovo, perhaps because there were few interviews on TV with crying bomb victims as there were after the Columbine incident, or perhaps because we do not regard the people of Kosovo as victims. They are stuck in the middle of a war and have no control over their lives, yet we have a hard time considering them as victims.

Although viewers play a large part in this silent prejudice, the media is also at fault in many situations. When the three American soldiers were

recently freed with the help of Reverend Jesse Jackson, their faces made the front page of every newspaper and the opening story of every newscast, almost as if their lives were more precious than all of those that have been lost by civilians as a result of the Kosovo crisis.

This is not the only time discrimination can be seen in the news. Often we hear reports that a large group of people was killed somewhere, be it in a plane crash or in a war situation. Following that number, we are then told how many of these were American lives. Are these American lives any more important than the others?

The media encourages us to view with discrimination, but I suggest that we change this discrimination. As viewers, we need to make television responses based on the degree of a tragedy, not on the location, for only then will we truly be a prejudice-free society.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Blueprint,

I think that you should devote more time to school violence. I was a little surprised by the lack of articles covering the issue. I do not believe that two articles do this subject justice. I was especially shocked that it wasn't on the first page. That parking should be considered more important than Colorado/school violence is truly wrong.

I believe that in your next issue a major part of the newspaper should be devoted to what we can do to prevent violence at Acalanes. I think you should see if there are organizations, like the Foundation for Youth Non-Violence, that have suggestions--actual steps we can take--to prevent tragedy at Acalanes. Everyone seems to be talking about how kids can respect each other, but

not about any actual plans to help this idea.

Also, Amy Luke I know was planning to start a group against school violence. You might want to talk to her.

Well, those are my thoughts, and I appreciate that you took time to read them. I want to say that I think *Blueprint* is doing fine otherwise and I'm very proud to have such a wonderful newspaper at our school.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

-A Concerned Student

Dear Concerned Student,

Thank you for voicing your opinions which, as you know, are always welcome. We have taken your advice into consideration.

-Blueprint Editors-in-Chief

CITIZEN SAM

Hey! Ho! Ethnic Studies Have to Go!

By Sam Cunningham**Opinion Editor**

Concern has been raised recently at the University of California at Berkeley over the future of ethnic studies. Six students, five from UC Berkeley, went on a hunger strike on Friday, April 30 protesting the "starvation" of the Department of Ethnic Studies. After camping out on the steps of the office of UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl, the activists won and their demands were met.

The concessions that the activists won were the filling of eight ethnic studies faculty positions, \$100,000 towards an institute of race and gender studies, a student multi-cultural center and an ethnic studies-mural in Barrows Hall.

This agreement is a major mistake on the part of Berdahl and the UC Berkeley administration. They, as responsible educators and leaders, should do nothing to feed ethnic studies and should do everything in their power to phase it out of the curriculum.

It should be sooner, rather than later, because ethnic studies does not provide a quality education for university students, nor does it help bring racial equality and social justice even one step closer to reality.

Ethnic studies promotes the twisted combination of tribalism, defeatism, and elitism that is racially segregating the Berkeley campus. Jack Citrin, Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley, teaches a few ethnic studies courses, and every day on the elevator he witnesses how diversity at

Berkeley really works. He wrote in the San Francisco Chronicle: "Latino students disembark from the elevator on the fifth floor, the location of Chicano Studies; blacks exit at the sixth floor, domain of African-American Studies; whites get off at the seventh floor offices of the Political Science faculty."

Not only do ethnic studies proliferate separatism, they also teach an absurd

of the exaggeration and blatant logical fallacies that ethnic studies proliferate. At Wellesley University, a prominent ethnic-studies lecturer claimed that the Egyptians were black and that the Greek intellectual Plato stole his philosophy from the library at Alexandria. When a concerned faculty member stood up and pointed out that the library was built after Plato's death, the lecturer simply stated he didn't like the tone of the question.

The study of other cultures is not the problem. The way that certain cultures become specialized and elitist and the way they then begin to promote tribalism cause the trouble to begin. The resources and teachers of ethnic studies should be redistributed to the history, sociology, and English departments. This will prevent students of ethnic studies from becoming isolated from mainstream academic work, end the tribalism segregating the Berkeley campus, and expose all students--not just ethnic studies students--to multiple cultures.

People of color, for whom ethnic studies was

primarily created for, make up nearly 30% of the United States population. Yet, as a whole, they are primarily impoverished and powerless. These people are at the risk of remaining in their present condition until they can compete successfully with whites and Asians.

Ethnic studies programs do nothing to advance this aim, and instead, quite a bit to slow it. For the sake of racial equality and social justice, it must be phased out from education in the United States.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

and irrational mentality. The underlying philosophy of the program, that all ethnic groups and cultures have a separate but equal "version" of history, is an oxymoron because history is based on facts, not on interpretations. The primary way in which the field continues to thrive is by artificially inflating the self-esteem of cultures and races less prevalent in university education than the West, even at the expense of historical accuracy.

In *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, Robert H. Bork gives a prime example

PRO/CON

Should Students be Required to Vote?

The debate over whether school elections simulate the real world

By Ann Bordetsky

Staff Writer

It is a well-known fact that when it comes time for Acalanes class elections, a large chunk of the student body makes like a typical fourth quarter senior and becomes completely apathetic to what's happening at school. Since the speeches and numerous posters of the candidates just don't seem to motivate students to vote for class officers, perhaps making voting for Leadership a requirement would be a good idea.

The most common excuse for not voting is that the elections are primarily a popularity contest, and therefore voting is pointless and futile. To some extent that could be true for any election, even one in the "real world." However, students who think the influence of popularity on elections is a legitimate excuse not to cast a vote need a serious reality check.

Leadership elections are the responsibility of all students at Acalanes, not just the select few who run as candidates, so no matter how bogged down students feel with everything else, voting remains a responsibility like any extracurricular activity or class. Leadership elections should be important to every student.

For one thing, having the entire student body vote would make the elections more interesting. Knowing that every student would be voting could motivate the candidates to be more serious in their campaigns and speeches. It could also motivate more students to run for office because, in theory, they would have a better chance at winning an election if there was a larger voter pool.

This, in turn, would take away from that "popularity contest"-aspect of the elections, which so many use as an excuse. Simply put, requiring students to vote could make the elections more like real elections. Sound like too much effort for some "dinky" leadership election?

Well, the bigger idea is not simply to get students to vote in Acalanes elections, but to get students into the practice of voting before they become adults. A large number of students don't think school elections are important. However they still assume they'll catch on to the whole voting thing once it comes to "real world" elections. If you're one of those students who thinks that voting will be more important to you when you're an adult, you better dig up your crystal ball and check again. The voter turnout in America is only around 30 to 40 percent.

Obviously, voting is not on the priority list for a large part of the nation. However that could be changed. If people came into the habit of voting and considered it a responsibility before the age of eighteen, they would be more likely to continue voting as adults. Simply put, the whole experience would be good voting practice for students, all of whom will eventually become American voters.

By Peter Deng

Copy Editor

Life is full of choices: Should I do my homework now or later? What do I want for lunch? Choosing an Acalanes Student Body officer at Acalanes should be no different. It would be ludicrous and ironic if we were given a choice of candidates, but not the choice of whether or not to cast a vote.

Currently, Acalanes has a great system in which one can vote if one so wishes. This way, people have a choice to vote and a choice of candidates. There is no point in changing this current system which fully provides choices—the choice to vote included. This perfectly reflects the American democracy and will prepare students for adult life, which includes voting in real elections.

The Chartists in England lobbied for a say in government in the 1800's. Women marched for the vote in the early 1900's. In 1999 at Acalanes, there is universal student suffrage. People have fought long and hard for a say in government, and it has been achieved. It is a privilege to vote, and casting a vote of indifference is up to those who do not take advantage of this privilege. Those who do not vote are not taking advantage of the wonderful opportunity people in the past could only dream of. But nevertheless, it's their choice, and trying to force people into voting without their own volition is folly.

How accurate would the results be if everyone were forced to vote, including the students who couldn't care less? If forced to vote, indifferent students would mark the first name on the ballot just to get it over with. Some might even try to be funny and mark all the names on the ballot. No matter how you look at it, the results will be askew if everyone is forced to vote.

In middle school, they herded us into a large auditorium and forced us to listen to election speeches, guarding the doors as we marked our ballots. They were exposing us to the concept of democracy and the vote. High school is now exposing us to a new concept: the concept of the real world. In the real world, we have the privilege and duty to vote, but in the real world, there are no "Voting Police" to stand guard and make sure you mark a ballot. Nobody will go and drag you out of your house to the voting booths. The current voting system is simulating the real world let's not change that.

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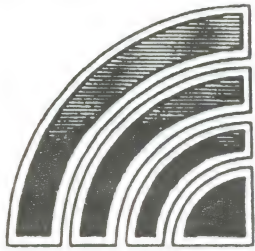
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INSIDE



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SCHOOL PLAY

You Can't Take it With You Delivers

By Rand Dadasovich
Staff Writer

Blend a kooky playwright, a crafty patriarch, a pair of pyromaniacs, a maniacal maid, a lustful ballerina, a couple of drunks, two Russians, and some cops. Mix thoroughly with two star-crossed lovers, one cup tax evasion, and a pair of arrogant aristocrats. Sprinkle on some talent, add laughs, and you have this spring's Acalanes Drama Department production of *You Can't Take it With You*.

The show, which ran May 5, 7, 8, & 11, was a recipe for success. For two-hours each night, the small Drama Department theater was transformed into the living room of Martin Vanderhof, a resident of New York in the 1920s. The play, written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, was a good fit for Acalanes because it called for an ensemble of eccentric characters allowing drama students to show off their talents.

While the cast as a whole was stellar, certain performances stood out because they demanded such a range of acting abilities. Junior Lindsey Hynek sparkled as a flirtatious and attention-hungry ballerina. Her inclination for physical comedy and a keen sense of comedic timing contributed to several hysterical moments.

Senior Chris Schneider's performance as the aging Martin Vanderhof was right on target. He has obviously mastered the impersonation of a witty, and slightly off-balance grandfather.

Next year's communication videos should be amazing considering

the acting abilities of next year's ASB officers. Future ASB President junior James Applebury was always the scene-stealer as the pretentious Soviet ballet instructor Mr. Kolenkhov. His Russian accent was deadly accurate and his stage presence hilarious. His dancing scene with Hynek had the audience rolling with laughter.

Future ASB Vice-president Junior Grace Woods made her brief on stage appearance as Grand Duchess Olga Katrina memorable. Woods was more than convincing, both in appearance and accent, as the cousin of a former Russian Czar who now works as a waitress in New York City. Other intoxicating performances included juniors Emily Murray as an alcoholic starlet and Sean Schneider as the drunk boyfriend of Rheba the maid.

The set wasn't overcomplicated and the space was used effectively. It is astonishing to see how a little construction can really impact a production positively. Student director senior Elizabeth Schrey, a veteran of Acalanes' production, translated her experience onto the stage helping each scene to run smoothly.

The plot was simple: two lovers trying to get married despite two very different backgrounds. It was



Junior Wesley Robert helps junior Lindsay Hyneck prepare before a performance of, "You Can't Take it With You."

Blueprint Photo: Will McCosker

the bits of business and comedic moments which made the production so successful. The play was more concerned with the day-to-day life of an eccentric family and the actors were effective in revealing this. In some ways, the play is reminiscent of the television series *Seinfeld*. It's not so much the brilliant plot, but the acting and comedy which everyone loves.

STAR WARS

Star Wars: The Next Generation

By Jeni Wolowic

Staff Writer

When the first *Star Wars* exploded onto the big screen 20 years ago, the majority of the Acalanes student body wasn't alive to see it, but the popularity of these movies is contagious and has continued throughout the decades.

The excitement over *Star Wars* spans generations. When the Special Edition *Star Wars Trilogy* was released three years ago, fans young and old flocked to the theaters to see their old friends Luke, Han, Leia, Chewie, C3PO, and R2-D2.

This time the excitement is over a new set of characters and a new story set 30 years before "a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." and the anticipation is even greater.

"It's the continuation of *Star Wars*. When *Star Wars* came out, it was the pinnacle of science fiction movies at the time and because this new movie has the name, it's guaranteed to be a classic," said senior Greg Changaris.

With the newest film in the *Star Wars* galaxy opening May 19th, lines began to form over 40 days in advance, unprecedented in any galaxy. Tickets, to the dismay of many fans, were unavailable until May 12.

The Brenden 16 in Concord has 10-15 shows sold out as of Monday, while the Orinda theater only has two shows sold out opening day. Both theaters reported that people camped out to buy tickets, but Brenden will not allow ticket holders to camp out until 24 hours before the movie's release.

Some would call these fans nuts, but at least they enjoy what they're doing, even if it involves living on a piece of sidewalk for several weeks. Many people take turns waiting in line with friends, while some have even earned sponsors for their time and earn money for charity. These die-hard fans spend their hours immersing themselves in the *Star Wars* universe.

Some may argue that the hype is just over the *Star Wars* label and fans would stand in line just to see R2D2 and C3PO walk across the screen. Popular belief is that it could



Courtesy Photo

never do poorly in the box office no matter how awful the movie turns out to be.

Sophomore Josh Deitch does not believe the movie will live up to all the hype, but he has tickets nonetheless. "We'll go to the 12:01 am show, because it's the first showing on the the West coast and we'll see it before anyone else," said Deitch.

This may be true since many fans went to the theaters just to see the *Star Wars* trailer for *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. Other people were willing to pay \$7.00 to see the rerelease of the original *Star Wars* in the theater, even if they owned the video.

Web sites are buzzing with talk of the new movie. In a quick *Blueprint* search online, over 888,460 sites were found dedicated to *Star Wars*.

One fan on-line who went by the name LordRiddel said, "I'm looking forward to a good movie with a solid script and solid acting. The effects are just icing on the cake."

Sophomore Krysta Paradis said, "I'm excited the new movie's coming out, but I think I'll wait a few days, or weeks or maybe even months before going to see it."

In truth, the popularity of *Star Wars* lies in its simple plot: the fight between good

and evil. The characters are those which movie audiences can look up to because they fight for what they believe in, not because they use awesome special effects to kill bad guys and blow up buildings.

The new movie will have many different levels of viewers. "Beginners will log on, enjoy the surface thrills and shut down. Intermediates will (see it) again to see what they missed. Experts will study plot details like they're cosmic tea leaves," said Peter Travers in his review that appeared on the Rolling Stone web site. "In short, (George Lucas) has changed the way we look at movies by making multiple viewings part of the game."

For those who have never seen *Star Wars* and never felt the Force, you have missed one of the greatest social events of this millennium. Some would also find it strange that people were able to avoid one of the biggest breakthroughs in movie making for over 20 years.

That's 20 years of movies, music, toys, games, commercials, specials, and just plain fun which will most definitely continue for at least another 30 years while the Force spreads to generations of the future.

MOVIE REVIEWS

"Election" Doesn't Win the Votes

By Thomas Wille

Staff Writer

Election

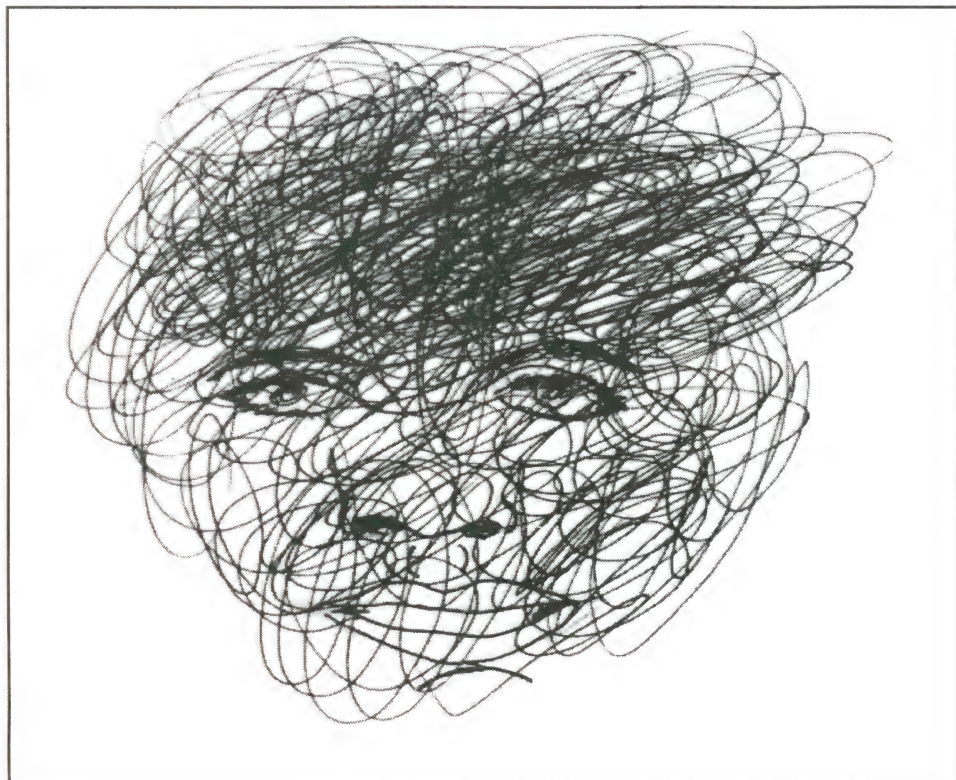
**Miramax**

Election is the most disturbing movie I have seen recently. It's actually very well put together, and it will take some explaining to see why I panned it.

The plot simply follows a high school presidential election in Omaha, Nebraska. A well-liked government teacher named Jim MacAlister finds a dumb but popular jock named Paul to run against the class overachiever, Tracy Flick. Meanwhile, Paul's alienated sister, who keeps falling in love with her best friends, decides to run as a protest candidate.

Mr. MacAlister initially seems to be the main character, and someone to sympathize with, but he is slowly revealed to be slime. A side plot has him cheating on his wife and having sexual fantasies about his students. MacAlister is played by Matthew Broderick, who brings a confused understanding to his love/hate relationship with Tracy (well done by Reese Witherspoon). Paul and his sexually experimenting sister are both convincing in their portrayal of teenagers.

I barely laughed in this film, and in terms of comedy, *Election* isn't very funny. I felt so depressed coming out of *Election*. There wasn't a single character I felt I could identify with. I think it was made by an



adult looking back at high school and expressing his contempt for everyone there, including himself. This film loathes humanity. Everyone is some kind of sexual misfit. This film does provide some valuable satire on high school, but I couldn't identify with it at all.

Bullworth



Bullworth is everything I look for in a movie. It's a brutal and hilarious political satire. I felt the movie spoke for me, and as such, it's a great piece of work.

Bullworth's plot is mostly uninteresting. Democratic Senator from liberal LA Jay Billington *Bullworth* has gotten so tired of prostituting himself to insurance companies, he decides to commit suicide. With his death impending, *Bullworth* acts on impulse and begins to speak truthfully to those in power. He delivers a wonderfully blunt criticism of the disgusting wealth gap, corporate control of the media, campaign finance, private health care, and race relations in America.

Warren Beatty directed, co-wrote and starred in this film; my hat's off to him. *Bullworth* was very overlooked, and I urge viewers to take a second look.

Bullworth offers something not often seen in today's movies: a radical critique of the status quo. Beatty is venting his disgust with the democratic party and its pander to the centrist politics of America. All in all it's excellent.

SATIRE

On Writing a Satire...

By **Teressa Wickham**
Staff Writer

Have any of you actually tried to sit down and write a satire? I mean, do you know what it entails? First off, I have to figure out what to write about... something that I can babble on about for an entire page or so. Then, it has to be real. It has to be about something that actually makes sense. To top it off, it has to be funny, it has to be jocular, peculiar and pasquinade.

Writing a satire is like answering the 90-point essay question at the end of your history exam that you forgot to study for. You have a basic idea on what you're going to write, you have a total of three key points, but you can't fill in the blanks. Then, during your second paragraph, you realize that you're going to have to "fluff" up your essay just a tad in order to fill three pages. You want to know something else? Writing an essay takes discipline, hard work, and thought... writing a satire takes the same, but it also takes some creativity.

The timing is always just great too. I mean, the day that have all my Physiology reading to do, a test the next morning in a class that I'm struggling for a decent grade in, and a term paper to finish, that's when I have a *Blueprint* story due. Never on the days when I have nothing to do and I'm stranded at home just quizzical for something to do. Intrinsic, eh?

Teenage life has a way of mystifying me. With all the stress of adolescence and "finding myself," how am I actually supposed to sit down at midnight and punch out two pages, double spaced, of

something humorous? Look at the time! I'm tired and disgruntled, and I'm asphyxiated in stress and homework. There's no time for humor at a time like this. I have a future ahead of me... grades I need to get, teachers I need to please, where do you see the time to be funny?

You want to know the worst part about it is, though? Coming up with the

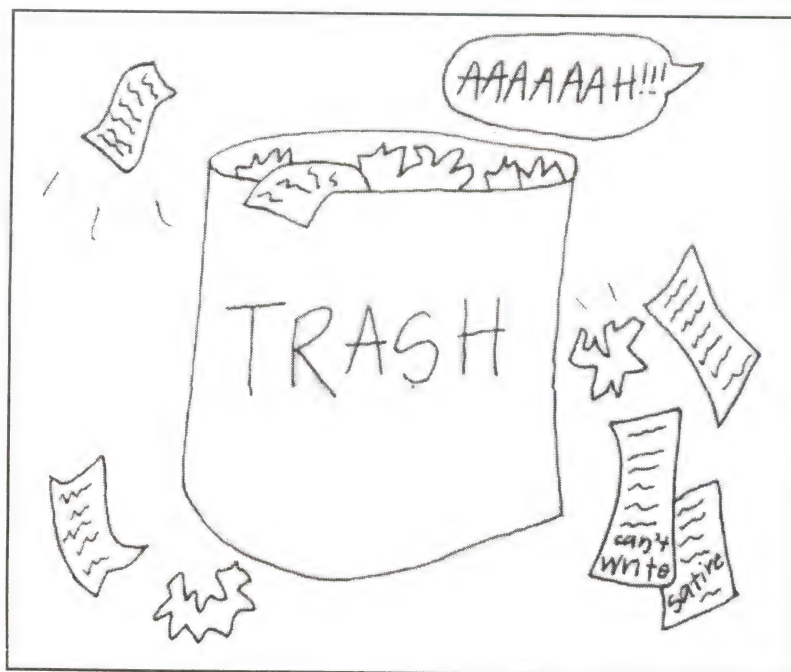
be laughing my brains out over an issue, just rolling around on the ground, and tell one of my peers, and they'd just look at me with that "Okaaaaaaayyyyy... psycho!" look. It just kills me. It really does. How am I supposed to know what's going to tickle their funny bone, eh? We're all different, we're not alike, how can I please all

of you? It's like Abe Lincoln always said, "You can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can never please all of the people all of the time." So, I should be content with that, right? Wrong. Think about it... where'd that get him? The middle of a Civil War, that's where. (OK, if any of you haven't noticed, I'm out on a limb here people, so please, please laugh. A smile would even do... or a smirk... please?)

One more bone... I swear. How does anyone babble on about one topic anyway? That's

the worst part (well, maybe not as bad as coming up with the idea itself, but...) The problem is, if I babble too long about something, all of you readers will get bored and think that I'm some sort of imbecile that sits around a computer all day trying to think of something to write. Then, you'll all be standing there, reading my lousy, totally non humorous article in the *Blueprint*, and picture me at home trying to be funny... which just isn't true. I'm funny, really I am. I mean, at least I don't babble on about how I can't think of anything to write about. At least I don't complain like some sort of... oh... uh... Well, I guess I just better end it here before I get foot in the mouth disease... again.

Oh, and do I have another bone to pick with you. Pleasing the readers is a task in itself. Seriously though, I could



idea on what to write about. Man, that kills me. It really does. You're sitting in your room, wracking your brain for one thing, one simple little thing, that you can mock. It comes to you... on goes the light bulb, and you jump up with excitement out of your chair, scamper to your computer and start typing. You finish the first two... maybe three paragraphs, reread it, love it, and then... that's it. You have nothing left to say. Everything that you wanted to say has already been said and now you have nothing. It's 12:10 am, and you still have nothing. Back to your room.

LOCAL BANDS/RENT

Dons Not in Mix at Bands in a Blender

By Lindsay Wood
Staff Writer

As the sun beat down on the audience, bands from Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte, shared their favorite music Saturday May 1, at the Moraga Commons.

With close to three hundred people there, the ten high school bands jammed. Freshman Matt Haynes, who is a member of one of the bands that participated in the show, said, "...the crowd) was mostly from Miramonte and Campolindo, not many people from Acalanes were there."

The lack of Acalanes students was not do to the fact that Bands in a Blender was not publicized enough. Sophomore Zach Blackman said he, "told a lot of people

about it, but I guess they just didn't want to go."

Even though not many Acalanes students went, many people from Campolindo and Miramonte were there, along with Jr. High students. Junior Grace Woods said that, "It was the same turnout as last year. There were people coming and going last year, but this year the amount of people stayed constant."

A band called 8 Man Stout represented Acalanes. The group of four have been playing for three months together. Matt Haynes raps the words, senior Justin Burdtt plays the bass, sophomore Mike Rowan is on guitar, and junior Matt Rowan keeps the beat. Bands in a Blender was their first chance to play before a crowd.

With their combination of rap and rock n'roll, the crowd seemed to enjoy 8 Man

Stout. The music is, "rap influenced rock," according to Haynes.

By practicing twice a week and jamming on the weekends, the band has managed to write ten of their own songs and might play on May 21 at the Lafayette Mesonic Hall with another band, Mark My Words.

8 Man Stout, to many Blender's dismay, will most likely not be playing at Acalanes any time soon. "I want to play for people who want to hear it, not people who are forced to," said Haynes.

Local bands like 8 Man Stout are able to play for people who like music at concerts like Bands in a Blender. They go out into a relaxed environment and just play, it is not a competition. "It was really relaxed, and everyone danced, there were people of all ages there," said Woods.

Willing to Pay the "Rent"

By Heather Klurfeld
Entertainment Editor

Phenomenal. Amazing. Fantastic. Energetic. Astounding. These are just some of the words that critics, and myself, would agree with to describe the Broadway sensation "Rent," by Jonathan Larson.

After spending my life watching "Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Miserables," which are both good productions as well, this was quite a welcomed treat. I would recommend, though, before seeing the production, getting a little background on the characters. Their relationships are intertwined and, if you do not know any background coming into the performance, slightly confusing.

The show begins in an apartment in New York on Christmas Eve. There are eight main characters. Roger and Mark, played by Dean Balkwill and Troy Elliot, live in an apartment. They are going to be evicted by their ex-roommate, Benny, played by Brian Love, who bought the apartment building and the lot next to it to make a cyber-arts studio. Mark's ex-girlfriend, Maureen, played by Erin Keaney, who has now be-

come a lesbian, decides to stage a protest against Benny. In the process, Roger falls in love with a drug addict, Mimi, played by Sharon Leal, and Roger and Mark's other roommate, Collins, played by Mark Jackson, falls in love with a transvestite named Angel, played by Shaun Earl. All of the players, to add a twist to the story, not only live in the apartment house but almost all have AIDS. The story is the struggle to regain life, not only in the apartment building, but to find a purpose in the world (This will help those of you who attend the show and do not know the storyline).

The story takes on a sarcastic tone, making it not only enjoyable and funny, but also easy to relate to. The play is interrupted with telephone calls from mothers, singing Christmas carolers, and homeless people all making a mockery of life. Larson pokes fun at big business, at one point talking about Angel's style: "She'd pick up a rag off the street, make a dress out of it, and next year the GAP would be producing them in mass quantity."

The cast, despite it being a Sunday matinee, was astounding. Every cast member

was full of life and busting out with energy. The audience was left captivated throughout the entire performance—there is never a dull moment. La Vie Boheme and Seasons of Love were the most energetic, not to mention entertaining.

I found Roger and Maureen to be exceptionally wonderful. Dean Balkwill had the most incredible voice. He was the one character that I truly sympathized with, although it is quite easy to sympathize with all of the characters. The audience sympathizes with Roger as he battles with AIDS and the emotional turmoil that accompanies a budding relationship. He's funny, cute, and somewhat charming.

Maureen, in contrast, is loud obnoxious, and cynical. She apparently has a following—when she came on stage, a large group of people in the front row started screaming even before she was visible. Maureen's protest is hilarious. She makes incredibly hilarious gestures and accompanied by a half-speaking, half-singing speech against Benny and his plans. Throughout the entire show, Maureen is the nucleus of the stage. Her presence is definitely known.

OSCAR WINNER

When Oscar "Dreams" Come to Reality

By Heather Klurfeld
Entertainment Editor

The blockbusters and snoozers witnessed by moviegoers throughout the year are produced with one aspiration: the Academy Awards. While this phenomenon appears to be an impossible feat to accomplish, recent Academy Award winner Joel Hynek shares his advice on making it big.

Hynek is the Senior Visual Effects Supervisor for Manex Visual Effects. His job entails overseeing the visual effects for movies, commercials, and other sorts of media. His objective is to "realize the director's vision," he says. He employs a combination of live-action shooting, models, and pyrotechnics to create the images shown in movies.

Hynek began at Carnegie-Mellon college where he was an electric-engineer major. While at Mellon, though, Hynek took a photography class. His professor, Tom Holman (the inventor of the THX System), inspired Hynek. Hynek soon transferred to the University of Illinois where he began his preliminary work in the film industry.

The key to success in the film industry, Hynek believes, is to specialize. Hynek focused purely on effects. He assisted with many student films that exemplified his talents. He captured his first job as an animator's apprentice. Although the job was not very long-lasting, it led to connections that helped catalyze his career.

Hynek was the recipient of the award for visual effects for the movie "What Dreams May Come." Visual effects, Hynek explains, incorporates special effects as well as digital technology and off-camera images. It is the fusing of images made from separately created sources."

Hynek, who had been nominated in 1987

for his work on "The Predator," felt elated when he received his recent nomination, even more than when he won. "In the nomination process, you are selected by your peers, which means, to some extent,... (more)

ing next to famous people ... makes the (Oscar achievement) seem so much more tangible."

While waiting for the awards to be announced, Lindsay kept thinking "I hope he wins, I hope he wins." When Hynek finally received his award he felt like "a huge weight had been lifted... I felt like I was on top of the world."

Hynek feels he won the award by "creating an image never seen before... creating a viable world for a painting that has come to life." He feels that his talents added to this movie the feeling of "a new world that we can't ordinarily or otherwise see." Each shot was a two dimensional painting and a three-dimensional world working together.

Upon receiving his Oscar, Hynek feels this achievement has "opened a lot of doors." It has given him a lot of confidence, as well. Hynek feels that he has increased his expectations: "You have to meet the standards you have now set for yourself." Yet, at the same time, Hynek feels that he can "relax, and do what is dear to my heart. I feel like I don't have to prove myself anymore."

For those interested in working in the movie industry or in other forms of media, Hynek has two pieces of advice for advancement in the film industry. First of all, Hynek feels people need to "specialize— eventually

someone will really need that speciality." The second piece of advice is to do gain some exposure and experience in the field. Hynek advocates the production of student-films or even a personal portfolio to gain experience in the film business: "Show people what you can do."

Despite all of the fame and prestige, Lindsay feels that "He's still just my Dad."



Oscar winner Joel Hyneck talks about his profession and victory with the graphic design class.

than the Academy, which is more like a popularity contest."

As the Hynek family walked down the red carpet to enter the awards, Hynek's daughter Lindsay felt "amazed... there were so many famous people that it was almost overwhelming." Lindsay had the opportunity to talk with celebrities such as Geofrey Rush and Michael Rappaport: "Stand-

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

A CALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS

INSIDE



*Acalanes Senior
Julie Cellini Dives
Into The Athletes of
The Issue.
pg.30*

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SOFTBALL

Lady Dons Strike Out With Benicia

**By Vanessa Totten
Staff Writer**

The Dons battled Benicia High School in a tight 2-0 loss. Though the team lost, they went out in style. Senior pitcher Melanie Olson said "a lot of people made some really spectacular plays." Those people included junior Robin Flier, who had a few terrific catches in the fourth and fifth innings and junior third baseman Lauren Daher, who caught a ball that seemed destined for left field. Flier said she feels her spectacular performance was "mainly due to support...helping each other out."

Coach Bob Breuckner couldn't agree more. He said "I am proud of my team...(we had) a lot of good defensive plays." He believed that the team "hit well, but certainly didn't get any breaks" from Benicia's tough defense. On Thursday, May 13 the Lady Dons faced Las Lamas for the second time this season. Last time the Dons faced Las Lamas, they slaughtered them, 10-1. This time, the tables turned in an "ugly, terrible" 9-0 loss, according to senior Kim Carter. Carter attributed the loss to "a lot of errors on plays that should have been routine." She felt her team was "unfocused and lacking enthusiasm" which is rare for the usually eager team.

The team experienced defeat again on

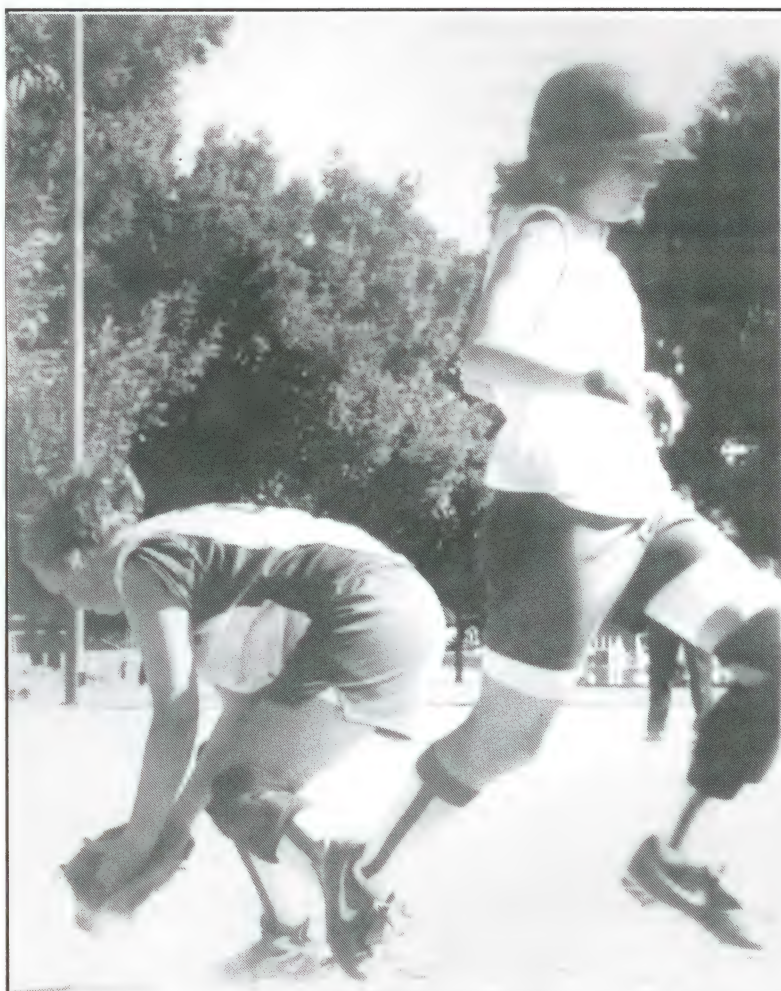
Friday, May 15 versus Concord. The team lost 5-0. Though in the fourth inning, the Dons looked like they were ready to take the game, with bases loaded and no outs, the team had lost its momentum offensive-

were enthusiastic throughout their warm-ups, their momentum was quickly quelled in the first inning due to the ump, mistaking his blue jersey for a red cougar one, made several blatantly inequitable calls all to the

benefit of Campo. The ump called a pitch that bounced off of home plate a strike. He said an acrobatic infield catch by shortstop Staci Yamaguchi was not an actual catch because she landed near the ground and her glove was upside down, even though the ball never touched the ground, in this reporter's opinion. The ump was so bad that even many of the parents from the Campo side admitted that the ump was too generous towards their team after the game.

Catcher Carter called the 7-1 loss "a major disappointment because we had to overcome the ump before we could even compete with Campo." After the first few innings, the ump began to call the game more equitably, however, the Dons' momentum was broken. The Dons couldn't find the holes in the outfield. However, pitcher Jamie Fassio could not be broken. She pitched the whole game, and did a remarkable job, even though the ump wouldn't know a

strike if it smacked him in the head. The Lady Dons, despite losses in their last four games, will be attending the TCAL championships next week.



Junior Robin Flier hustles and barely edge out the throw to first base. The lady Don's superior effort almost won them the game against Dublin's highly ranked team.

ly. The team picked up defensively in the third inning, allowing no runs for the rest of the game. The girls softball team met the Cougars at Campo on May 6. Though they

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

BASEBALL

Dons Knock Out Knights in 4-3 Comeback

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

The Dons won their last game of the season with a score of 4-3 over Las Lomas in extra innings at home on May 14.

Senior Derek Clay was walked after senior Pat Cochrane stole third. When Clay stole second, Cochrane took advantage of the open home plate to come home, making it 2-0 at the end of the first.

Las Lomas rallied back in the second inning, making the score 3-2. The rally was mainly due to errors by the Acalanes defense.

"The further we go along in the playoffs...we have to make every play. We can't make one here and not another one there. It just can't happen at that level," said Coach Dave Borghi.

In the eighth, Clay got a single, followed by a fielder's choice for junior John Derne. Junior Stefan Foushee made it to first on what was ruled catcher's interference. Woods hit a single through the Las Lomas short stop's legs to bring in

Derne for the winning run.

"We're insured to get third no matter what happens, it's tough to come out and play hard," said senior Jim Woods.

"Acalanes is preparing to go to the playoffs, so we wanted to play them tough and give them a battle and we did," said Las Lomas Assistant Coach Sean Hennessy.

Acalanes used the power of the bat in their 8-6 comeback victory over Benecia at home on May 11.

Down 6-0 in the middle of the first, it was looking pretty grim for the Dons.

Junior pitcher Eric Lee felt the Dons weren't mentally in the game early on. "We started to focus after the first inning."

In the second inning with two runners on base, senior E.J. Verceles hit a single that brought them home. Cochrane then hit a ground rule double to put the Dons back in the game, down only 6-5 after two.

Junior Jeff Smith was walked to start the inning, followed by a single by Verceles. Cochrane hit a triple that brought in the winning runs. He later came home him-

self on a suicide squeeze to make the final score 8-6.

Two seniors led the Dons in this game. Verceles was three for three with three RBIs, and Cochrane was three for four with three RBIs.

After the game, Coach Borghi said that when the team is down that much that early on that "we try to play to get a couple of runs every inning. You can't get everything back in one inning."

The Dons were down early and never came back in their 4-1 loss to the league leading Campolindo on May 6. Acalanes could not manage to score any more runs despite the best efforts of seniors Pat Cochrane and Jim Woods who both went two for three.

It's lucky for Mt. Diablo that they play by high school rules. They were thrashed 13-0 by Acalanes on May 4 at home. The game was cut short due to the high school slaughter rule that if a team is leading by ten runs at the end of the fifth inning, the game is called. The Dons scored eleven of their runs in the second inning, sending up seventeen batters in that inning as well.



Junior Art Csider steps up to the plate in hope of hitting a home-run, but instead hits a foul. Even though the Don's performance was not flawless, the team still won by 5-4 over Dublin.

TRACK

Acalanes Hurdles Through TCAL Finals

By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

Acalanes managed to run in many finalists at the TCAL league time trials on May 12 at Campo.

Though Acalanes coach Manny Meyers was disappointed in the sprinting area, the 90 Acalanes athletes that qualified for trials made the finals in all but three events.

To make finals, the athlete had to place in the top eight in their event. On the Acalanes boys side, Ali Al-Mufti (12.2) came in 6th in the 100M and 2nd in the 200M with 23.3. Ed Ayers also placed in the 200, taking sixth with 24.81. He came in 2nd in the 400 with 52.79. V.J. Sekhon took 1st in the 800 with 2:05.79. In the 1600M, Dan Lynch placed 4th (4:56.4). Though Acalanes did not place in the 110m hurdles, Mark Philpot placed 6th (44.49) in the 300M hurdles. The seven way tie in the high jump at 5'6" included two Benicia vaulters, one from Campo, one from Las Lomas and three from Acalanes, Peter Lennon, David Woodworth and Terrence Wong. There was a six way tie in the pole vault. Among the placing teams were Campo, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Benicia and Jeff Minder from Acalanes. All vaulted 11'6".

David Woodworth took first in the triple jump with 41'6.5". Terrence Wong took 5th (39'3") and Carlo Milani placed 7th (38'13/4"). Terrence Wong (24'10") took 1st in the long jump with fellow athletes David Woodworth (4th, 19'81/2") and Carlo Milani (7th, 19'6"). In shotput, Cory Hardin took 2nd (44'3") and Garland Ng placed 8th (40'5"). Hardin also placed in the discus, throwing (116'). Joe Mauneir (121'1") placed 6th.

The Acalanes girls made sure they

weren't left in the dust either. Marimikel Charrier (13.93) placed 6th in the 100M along with Allie Armstrong (8th, 14.04). Danielle Cooke (28.7) snatched 8th in the 200M. Megan Allen (1:04.45) also stole the 8th spot in the 400M. Amy Judy (4th, 2:30.8) and Shelley Matsutani (5th, 2:33) won for spots in the 800M. Lizzy block ran in 4th (5:46.1) in the 1600M. Marimikel Charrier (17.62) placed 2nd in the 100M hurdles with Maggie Corr (7th, 18.65).

May 5. Acalanes track coach Manny Meyers predicted that this meet was going to be a close race but had hoped Acalanes would pull through. Las Lomas has a very strong sprinting section but Acalanes was planning to take all in the distance and hurtling area. Las Lomas ended up putting up quite a fight in those areas and prevented a full sweep. The varsity boys remained undefeated, winning 79-57 but the girls varsity obtained their first heartbreaker, losing 60-76.

No one could miss seeing the swarms of athletes that descended upon Acalanes leaving trails of parked cars for a square mile around on April 30 when Acalanes hosted the Robert Warren Relays. 30 teams from all over battled for ground but the creme rose as five teams surged to the top point wise, all ending 11 points or more above the others. St. Mary's proved to be the "athletic force" as Acalanes senior Terrence Wong put it, surfacing to the top of the heap with 48 points. De La Salle fell just short of the gold with 46. The other three real contenders were Castro Valley (33), Benicia (31) and Acalanes (29).

Acalanes slaughtered Freedom on April 21. The Acalanes varsity boys was just a stride short of a complete sweep, taking first in

every event save the 1600 meter relay. Freedom's varsity girls did not fare much better. The Acalanes varsity girls took first in all events except the 300 meter hurdles and the 1600 meter relay. Acalanes won 111-17 with the girls and 110-24 with the boys.

The Acalanes showed no remorse when they tread all over Dublin on April 14. The varsity girls did not allow Dublin a single first place and the varsity boys only allowed two. The girls won 119-13 and the boys 99-37.



An Acalanes Don flies off the ramp and hovers above the sand pit before reaching a personal goal.

Corr also placed 6th in the 300M hurdles with 51.68. There was a 9 way tie in the pole vault between Las Lomas and Campo. Acalanes didn't place in the triple jump either but Meghan Kalvass (14'8") placed 4th and Rachel Rosemeyer 7th (14'4") in the long jump. Rosemeyer took first in the shotput with 36'5" and in the discus with a 113'5", a distance 15 feet farther than anyone else.

Acalanes's perfect record was marred by a strong Las Lomas varsity girls team on

Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

VOLLEYBALL

Dons Hammer Dublin, Fall to Knights

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

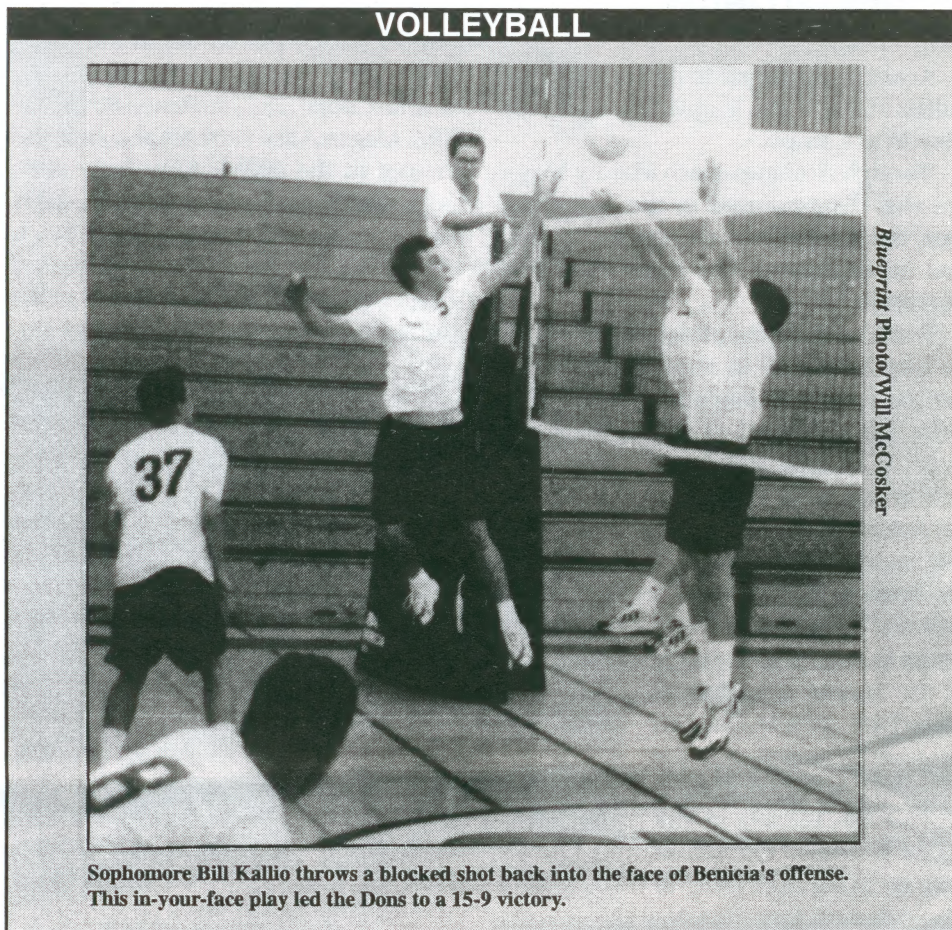
The Dons wrapped up the season with a win on home soil against Dublin and a loss at Las Lomas on May 7. The Dons also beat Campo in an away game and lost in the finals to get into North Coast.

In their match against Dublin, the Dons went out for blood, slaughtering them 15-7, 15-7, and 15-9 in rapid succession. In their previous match against Dublin, the Dons nearly lost to Dublin's fortified blocking and defense. But within the first few moments of the game, the Dons blitzkrieg tactics of bombardment took their toll. In the three games, the Big guns, including sophomore Bill Kallio, senior Arturo Mancia, and senior Nick Russell, systematically destroyed Dublin. By the end of the match, it was obvious that Dublin's fortifications had been nothing more than a Maginot line.

Coach Changaris said after the game, "I felt we played well at the beginning of the season, but I made some changes in the line-up, and our team is much more efficient and consistent in terms of both defense and offense, which was evident in the Dublin game where we were able to win in three games instead of the four it took last time."

In the match against Las Lomas, the Knights threw down the gauntlet and the Dons readily accepted the challenge. The Dons were caught off guard in the first and lost 15-8. In the second game the Dons became more alert, and outside hitter Arturo Mancia had the best match ever with 16 kills. But the Dons were still unable to attain victory, losing 10-15. In the third game the Dons got their win with the great serving of Dan Speir and the hitting of Nick Russell, who got seven kills. Eric Lee had three kills and 21 assists, helping bring the Dons to a 15-4 victory. But in the end, the Dons came up short, losing the last game 7-15.

VOLLEYBALL



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Sophomore Bill Kallio throws a blocked shot back into the face of Benicia's offense. This in-your-face play led the Dons to a 15-9 victory.

WARRIORS

By Myles Rush
Sports Editor

The term "Woeful Warriors" can no longer be used to describe the Golden State Warriors because our Bay Area team, who did not make the playoffs this season, became the second most improved team in the NBA.

Coming off a sub-par season last year when they only won nineteen games, the Warriors have come out this season with a new attitude, new players, a new vision for the future, and luckily some new fans. Some key changes for the franchise were the three newly acquired players. New York Knicks traded John Starks, Chris Mills, and Terry Cummings for the coach's favorite player, Latrell Sprewell.

Added to the mix was rookie small

forward Antawn Jamison out of North Carolina along with the goal of getting better than they ever had before. Now you have the recipe for a great team.

One goal they set, but did not make true, was a playoff birth for the first time in five years. But the goal of improving and putting them on the right road to becoming one of the premier teams in the NBA was accomplished. In the season shortened because of a lockout that lasted until January 7, the Warriors won 21 games, which is two games more than they won last year. Even though they are not invited into the post season party this time around, the Warriors will be a force to be reckoned with next season. With new players coming in, and a good experienced strong core to build on, a championship bound team is just around the corner.

GOLF

Valiant Dons Can't Putt it to NorCal

By Chris Vetek

Staff Writer

Wait, maybe, maybe, yess...no.

They were so close, but with the brilliant strokes of one golfer from Arcata, Acalanes's 11-year old dream of a team trip to NorCal slipped away in one final putt, capping an already milestone year for Acalanes golf. In coach Tim Scott's 11 year tenure as coach, never before has Acalanes seen this level of success.

Acalanes has never gone to NorCal as a team. This was to be the year. They won the TCAL's despite losing their top golfer this year, riding high on the heels of a solid core of veterans. Instead they fell prone to Charles Barkley syndrome. "Next year, ladies and gentlemen, next year I, too, will win a championship - I deserve it!" Only for the Dons, their championship hopes extend beyond league - for them a trip to NorCal is nirvana.

Despite magnificent play from junior

Brian Duckworth (74), a valiant effort from the hobbling senior Tim Childers (75), who just last Sunday broke his foot, and junior Elliot Randall (78), the Dons could not beat out the threesome powerhouses of Monte Vista, Arcata, and Castro Valley at the North Coast tournament on Monday, May 11, at the Sunol Valley Golf Club's Cypress course.

"We were in the lead early on when they were posting team scores. But then they put up a 68 for Arcata and that was it," said Duckworth.

Coach Scott was obviously disappointed but happy overall with his team's season.

"We won the league title. We were second in the TCAL league tournament (which was meaningless)," he said.

Two days after North Coast, Scott applied for an at-large bid for North Coast for his girls team, which competed on the same day as the boys. Michelle Maddux qualified individually for the tournament.

At the League Meet tournament on May 4th, which had no purpose except to sort the pool for 1st, second, and third-team all-league, Acalanes (386) placed second as a team to Miramonte, and beat Las Lomas by one stroke. However, because Acalanes whisked into the tourney with a League title already in the bag, this match was pointless aside from a chance to build momentum going into North Coast.

Acalanes wrapped up League the week before the tourney with a rebound victory over Freedom following an earlier defeat to Campolindo at their home course, at which the Cougars went undefeated this season.

So one more successful season for Acalanes sports has ended, capping a milestone year for this school.

Maybe not this year. But if these Dons still have the stimulus of hope, the pull of a star, and the burning desire for victory, perhaps 12 years isn't too long to wait. We'll see.

Aqua Dons Uphold Undefeated Season Title

By Ryan Rein

Staff Writer

The Dons swimming and diving team battled it out at Las Lomas on Wednesday, May 5 for a boys 93-82 win and a girls 114-59 loss. This leaves the boys undefeated at 6-0 and the girls at 3-3 heading into league meet on Saturday, May 15.

The Dons had good performances in several of the events. On the boys' side, sophomore Quinn Fitzgerald took first place in multiple events, the 200-yd IM and the 100-yd Butterfly. Senior David Peacock had good races and won both the 50-yd Free Style and the 100-yd Breaststroke. Senior Paul Crawford won the 100-yd Backstroke. Junior Chris Kinney took first place in the boy's diving competition.

For the girls, Senior Becky Straw took first place in the 100-yd Butterfly. Senior Devon Chen performed well and won the 50-yd Free Style. Senior Julie Cellini won girls' diving.

The next meet is the League Meet, which will be followed by the NCS Championship. Coach Jeff Miller said, "We should compete pretty well on both the guy's side and the girls' side." According to Miller, the whole swimming season is geared as training for these two meets. Miller says that of the teams that will be at league meet, Campolindo, Miramonte, and Las Lomas are going to be the teams to beat.

The Acalanes Don's diving team is hoping to come out of North Coast with a win this year. The Acalanes divers have worked hard to perfect their diving skills during practice. Cellini said, "Diving is a big head game. You really have to be completely into it mentally as well as physically. Most people have the physical ability to do it, but it's the mental concentration that you have to have from the very beginning of your first step all the way through your dive."

There are several parts that make up a good dive. The first thing that needs to be

done is to overcome any type of fear. The most important part of a diver's technique, according to Cellini and Kinney, is the hurdle. The hurdle is when the diver lifts his or her leg on the board. A good hurdle is needed to get the height and momentum for a good dive. Kinney said, "The take off, which starts with the hurdle, is what makes the dive. You can stumble on the way there, but if you catch your foot, it will throw you off but if you get a good hurdle and a good take-off, the dive will still be good."

In order for divers to qualify for North Coast, they need to score a certain amount of points. For the boys, the minimum is 250 points and for the girls the minimum is 275. The girls need more points because there are fewer boys who dive and they try to get more of them into the meet. Both Kinney and Cellini are hoping to qualify for North Coast this year. Cellini has qualified during each of her past three years as a diver and hopes to come out in the top three this year.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Nick Russell

Senior Nick Russell, now in his third year on the volleyball team, has had to step up big in the absence of last year's six senior starters. The team is very young and as a co-captain and team leader, Nick has helped to keep the young players focused. Wherever there has been a void in the team's play, Nick has proven to be a versatile player who steps into whatever position is needed. "He stepped it up this year and he had to do everything: pass, set, hit, and serve. He is one of the main reasons that we ended up with a 28-17 record," said Acalanes Volleyball coach Jim Changaris. Because of Nick's initiative to put the team on his shoulders, and his high level of performance, Nick Russell has earned this issue's male athlete of the issue.



Julie Cellini

Senior Julie Cellini is the only senior on her diving team of 12 and has helped lead the nine new freshmen this year. Julie is the team captain who has shown great leadership and has shared her wisdom with her teammates. She finished second place in the Tri-county Athletic League Championships, and was only four-tenths of a point away from attaining first. "Julie is an incredible athlete, a strong team leader, and a positive role model for the other team members," said diving coach Paige Petersen. Because of her great athletic ability, she went undefeated in dual meets and has earned this issue's title of Female Athlete of the Issue.